

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MAPUTO 00825 251846Z
ACTION DHA-02

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 IO-13 ORM-02 ISO-00 OES-07 /035 W
-----088749 251851Z/41

R 241530Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6008
INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
USMISSION GENEVA

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SREF, RH, M, US
SUBJECT: LOWMAN CONTACTS IN MOZAMBIQUE

REF: STATE 128744

1. DURING HIS JUNE 22-24 VISIT TO MAPUTO, VISITING D/HA OFFICER SHEPARD LOWMAN HELD DISCUSSIONS WITH THE MOZAMBIQUE OFFICES OF THE UNHCR, THE PATRIOTIC FRONT (ZANU), AND THE MOZAMBIQUE GOVERNMENT (GPRM) ON THE SITUATION OF ZIMBABWEAN REFUGEES IN MOZAMBIQUE. WITH GPRM AND ZANU, LOWMAN MADE POINT THAT GREATER OPENNESS IN ADMINISTRATION OF THE CAMPS AND INCREASED WILLINGNESS TO UTILIZE OUTSIDE EXPERTISE WOULD FACILITATE INCREASED FOREIGN ASSISTANCE TO ZIMBABWEAN REFUGEES.

2. WHILE UNHCR REP. DE MELO CONFIRMS SITUATION STILL BAD, ESPECIALLY IN DOHOI CAMP, AND A PRIME NEED STILL IMPROVED ADMINISTRATION, HE SEES SIGNS OF HOPE IN SEVERAL DEVELOPMENSTS NOTED BELOW. IN IMMEDIATE TERM, MOST URGENT NEED IS FOOD AID IN BASIC STAPLES, RICE OR CORN.

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PAGE 02 MAPUTO 00825 251846Z

SWEDISH CONTRIBUTION EXPECTED TO BE EXHAUSTED IN SEPT/OCT AND WFP IS PROVIDING ONLY FOOD SUPPLEMENTS. DE MELO ESTIMATES ABOUT \$350,000 NEEDED FOR STAPLE ITEMS IN LAST QUARTER AND INQUIRED AS TO POSSIBILITY PL 480 ASSISTANCE.

3. A ONE-HOUR MEETING WAS ALSO HELD WITH SIMON MUZENDA, "DEPUTY LEADER" OF THE ZIMBABWE AFRICAN NATIONAL UNION.

MUZENDA, WHO WAS NOT WELL-BRIEFED ON REFUGEE AFFAIRS BUT WAS SYMPATHETIC TO THEIR PLIGHT AND APPRECIATIVE OF ANY ASSISTANCE USG COULD PROVIDE, EITHER THROUGH UNHCR OR THERWISE. HE EXPRESSED SPECIFIC INTEREST IN FUNDS TO TRANSPORT ZANU REFUGEES FROM BOTSWANA TO ZAMBIA AND/OR MOZAMBIQUE. HE DECLINED TO STATE WHETHER THESE WERE REFUGEES OR FREEDOM FIGHTER RECRUTTS, BUT SAID UNHCR REP. GABERONES (PERKINS) HAD AGREED TO ASSIST. LOWMAN NOTED USG ASSISTANCE PROVIDED THROUGH UNHCR AND THAT HE WOULD DISCUSS MATTER WITH PERKINS. MUZENDA CLAIMED ZANU POSITION FAVERED OPNE CAMP ADMINISTRATION AND UTILIZATION FOREIGN EXPERTISE BUT OTHER SIGNALS EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED ARE MIXED ON ZANU POSITION THIS RESPECT.

4. LOWMAN ALSO MET WITH LOURENCO MUTAKA OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, WHICMH IS CURRENTLY RESPONSIBLE FOR REFUGEE AFFAIRS ALONG WITH MINISTRY OF INTERIOR. MUTAKA NOTED THAT A NEW NATIONAL DIRECTORATE FOR REFUGEE AFFIARS WAS IN THE PORCESS OF BEING ESTABLISHED. IT WOULD BE LOCATED IN THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT AND ITS DIRECTOR, TO BE APPOINTED, WOULD HAVE NEW POWERS. HE THOUGHT THE NEW DIRECTORATE MIGHT BE OPERATIVE IN SEVERAL WEEKS. (EMBASSY HAS INDEPENDENTLY LEARNED THAT NEW NATIONAL REFUGEEE DIRECTOR WILL BE COMMANDANT FRANCISCO LANGA, CURRENTLY A MEMBER OF ARMY HEADQUARTERS IN CHARGE OF TRANSPORT AND A MEMBER OF THE FRELIMO CENTRAL

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PAGE 03 MAPUTO 00825 251846Z

COMMITTEE.) MUTAKA NOTED THAT THERE HAS BEEN CONSIDERABLE RESISTANCE BY THE GPRM TO THE IDEA OF UTILIZING FOREIGN EXPERTISE IN REFUGEE AFFAIRS, BUT IMPLIED THAT THE GOVERNMENT ATTITUDE ON THIS IS UNDERGOING SOME CHANGE. HE SAID THIS WOULD BE ONE OF FIRST QUESTIONS WITH WHICH THE NEW DIRECTORATE WOULD HAVE TO DEAL. MUTAKA ARGUED ADEQUATE EXPERTIES EXISTED AMONG ZIMBABWEAN BUT SAID FOREIGN EXPERTISE MIGT BE ACCEPTED WHERE GAPS EXIST. HE CONFIRMED THAT THE LUTHERAN WORLD FEDERATION WOULD OPEN AN OFFICE IN MAPUTO SOON. WE UNDERSTAND, HOWEVER, THAT THIS DOES NOT YET IMPLY APPROVAL OF AN OPERATIONAL ROLE FOR LWF IN THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE CAMPS.

DDE PREE

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Sent Date: 24-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Disposition Remarks:
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